

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting of the Economic sustainability Study Committee

August 23, 2010, 1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Walnut Grove Library, Walnut Grove

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Commissioners Pegos; Piepho; Ruhstaller and Vick

Committee members not present: Commissioners Albright; Eggman; Ferguson and McGowan

Commissioner Piepho served as Chair.

Summary:

Executive Director Linda Fiack reported that the Commission has received funds in the amount of \$500k transferred from the Delta Stewardship Council per direction of the Legislature. She also noted that the contract between Bay Area Economics (BAE) and the Commission has been fully executed but there have been no invoices received for payment, to date.

BAE provided a draft time line for completion of the study process and a summary of work plan deliverables for review by the Committee. A primary component will be the identification of the status and value of the Delta economy. The Committee noted that the relationship between the Delta's economy and the economy of the region and State should be demonstrated. It was recommended by the Committee that existing resources such as articles, reports, and studies conducted by local organizations, universities, and state and federal entities be reviewed as a launching pad for the study.

Staff presented a summary of the timeline for preparing and submitting a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking a consultant team to complete the plan based on the framework to be completed by BAE by December. It is anticipated the consultants will be selected by November pursuant to completion of the RFP process in October.

BAE outlined the stakeholder list and public outreach process to be conducted to gather input as part of the framework process. The process will include workshops, personal interviews, and focus group interviews. It is anticipated that at least four public workshops will take place in September in locations throughout the Delta.

Representatives from the State Department of Parks and recreation provided a briefing for the Committee on the Department's role under SBX7-1 to provide input for the Economic Sustainability Plan. It was noted by staff members Julia Cox and Cheryl Essex that currently there is no funding provided under the legislation but that the Department has extensive quantifiable data from recent studies that capture the recreational economic effect in the Delta that they intend to use as a reference basis.

Linda Fiack noted to the Committee that staff will be requesting time on the agendas of the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Conservancy to provide an update on the

Commission's revised Management Plan, the Primary Zone Study process, the National Heritage Area process, and the development of the framework for completion of the Economic Sustainability Plan. It is anticipated the presentation to the Council will be on September 23rd or 24th and the presentation to the Conservancy will be on October 6th.

Public Comment:

Karen Medders, a Delta resident, expressed that she is concerned that there could be negative backlash as a result of the Study. She emphasized the importance of the study showing the Delta's economic value at both the local and state levels. She also noted that stakeholder input must be a priority.

Mark Wilson, Wilson Farms, recommended that committee meeting materials should be distributed to the public in advance of the meetings and materials for the public workshops also be made available in advance to encourage meaningful input. Mr. Wilson also suggested that the Study should not be limited to the "Legal Delta."

Bill Geyer, Resource Landowners' Coalition suggested developing a pilot project to demonstrate to the public that the Study will result in something concrete.

The meeting ws adjourned by the Chair at 2:50 p.m.